

## Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OMB-01 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 /075 W

----- 019661

R 260523Z FEB 76G

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6125

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 0492

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, LA

SUBJECT: ALL DANCING FORBIDDEN IN RESTAURANTS

1. IN THEIR CONTINUING EFFORT TO TURN VIENTIANE INTO THE DULLEST TOWN WEST OF HANOI, THE LAO COMMUNIST AUTHORITIES ANNOUNCED ON FEBRUARY 25 THAT ALL FORMS OF DANCING IN VIENTIANE'S RESTAURANTS WERE NOW ILLEGAL. SINCE ONE OF THEIR FIRST ACTS UPON TAKING CONTROL OF THE CITY HAD BEEN TO BAN ALL DANCING EXCEPT FOR THE TRADITIONAL, STATELY LAMVONG, THE NEW ORDER MEANS ONLY THAT THE LAMVONG IS NOW ADDED TO THE FORBIDDEN LIST. MRS. THONGCHINE SENGSAHITH, CHIEF OF THE SOCIAL AND CULTURAL SERVICE OF VIENTIANE CITY, STATED THAT THE "INTERDICTION WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO ASSURING SECURITY IN THE CAPITAL AS THE ENEMY WAS ALWAYS ATTEMPTING TO TROUBLE THE WELL-BEING OF THE POPULATION."

2. MRS. THONGCHINE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT DANCING WAS  
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NOT COMPLETELY BANNED. DANCES HAVING A "NATIONAL,

PROGRESSIVE, SCIENTIFIC AND POPULAR" CHARACTER WOULD BE AUTHORIZED AT CERTAIN RECEPTIONS AND CELEBRATIONS. IN ADDITION THE ORDER MIGHT BE TEMPORARY. ORCHESTRAS IN RESTAURANTS WERE NOT OFFICIALLY FORBIDDEN, BUT ALL SONGS MUST HAVE A "NATIONAL, PROGRESSIVE, SCIENTIFIC AND POPULAR" CHARACTER.

3. COMMENT: MRS. THONGCHINE'S IMPLICATION THAT DANCING THE LAMVONG MIGHT THREATEN THE SECURITY OF THE CITY IS INDICATIVE OF THE LEVEL OF THINKING OF THE NEW LAO LEADERSHIP WHICH REJECTS THE IDEA THAT LAO CITIZENS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO ENGAGE IN ANY ACTIVITY NOT OFFICIALLY APPROVED BY THE PARTY.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** RECREATION, LAW, SOCIAL CUSTOMS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976VIENTI00492  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Film Number:** D760072-0871  
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**Office:** ACTION EA  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ALL DANCING FORBIDDEN IN RESTAURANTS  
**TAGS:** PINT, LA  
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